

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates, which characterised in that they are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymers polymer, wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments.

2. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the polymer sheath has layer thicknesses of 2 – 500 nm.

3. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the LCST polymer is a polymers are selected from the group consisting of the polyalkylene oxide compound derivatives, olefinically modified PEO-PPO copolymers, polymethyl vinyl ether, poly-N-vinylcaprolactam, ethyl(hydroxyethyl)cellulose, poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) or polysiloxane, or a mixture poly-N-vinylcaprolactams, ethyl(hydroxyethyl)celluloses, poly(N-isopropylacrylamides) and polysiloxanes, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the UCST polymer is a polystyrene, polymers are selected from the group consisting of the polystyrenes, polystyrene copolymers or and polyethylene oxide copolymers, or a mixture mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the LCST polymer is a polysiloxane modified with olefinic groups.

6. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to

Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the polymer sheath additionally comprises one or more nanoparticles, polymerisable monomers, plasticisers, antioxidants, carbon-black particles, microtitanium or a mixture mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 6, wherein characterised in that the polymer sheath comprises 0.001 to 150% by weight of one or more additives, based on the polymer employed.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 8, wherein characterised in that the effect pigments are based on natural or synthetic mica, Al₂O₃ flakes, TiO₂ flakes, SiO₂ flakes, Fe₂O₃ flakes, glass flakes, ceramic flakes or graphite flakes.

10. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of A process for preparing surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the LCST and/or UCST polymer is applied to the pigment surface by precipitation in water and/or an organic solvent and is and irreversibly immobilized immobilised.

11. (Currently Amended) Process A process according to Claim 10, wherein one or more characterised in that conventional additives are added to the polymer.

12. (Currently Amended) A surface coating, water-borne coating, powder coating, paint, printing ink, security printing ink, plastic article, concrete, cosmetic composition, agricultural sheeting, tarpaulin, laser marking on a paper or plastic article, pigment composition or dry preparation, comprising Use of the surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1 in surface coatings, water-borne coatings, powder coatings, paints, printing inks, security printing inks, plastics, concrete, in cosmetic formulations, in agricultural sheeting and tarpaulins, for the laser marking of papers and plastics, as light protection, as pigment for corrosion protection and for the preparation of pigment compositions and dry preparations.

13. (Currently Amended) Formulations A composition comprising the surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1.

14. (New) A method for light protection or corrosion protection comprising applying surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1 to an article that is to be protected from light or corrosion.

15. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised UCST polymer.